



Runge Conservation Nature Center

Habitat Happenings

2010
May/June

Caution: Turtle Crossing

Why did the turtle cross the road? Everyone knows the punch line to this old joke, but there is a reason these little daredevils want to “get to the other side”. When the weather warms up, our hard shelled friends are on the move to find food, shelter, and a mate. Unfortunately, those attempting to cross roadways during their mission often get run over by motorized vehicles. The natural armor of a turtle’s bony shell does little to protect it and its slow, steady pace is no match for the fast movement of cars.

As you travel this season, please keep an eye out for our turtles that are on the move and, if possible, slow down when you happen to see them. Missouri motorists can help protect these reptiles’ populations by being more aware along the roadways. Look throughout the newsletter for some commonly seen traveling turtles during the warmer months.

Want to learn more? Visit Runge to pick up a free “Missouri’s Turtles” brochure or go to the MDC web page <http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/Documents/8273.pdf>.

Becky Matney, naturalist



Volunteer Lobby Exhibit

The following **VOLUNTEER** Naturalists were recognized recently for their contributions to the programs at Runge. Please congratulate them the next time you see them.

200 hours – Gabby Lehmuth, Elizabeth Viet

300 hours – Claudia Arnold

400 hours – Allen Verdot

750 hours – Bob Bresee



Three-toed box turtle

This is the most common turtle you see crossing roads. It is one of two terrestrial (land) turtles in Missouri and gets its name from being able to completely enclose its body parts inside its shell (like a box) when threatened.

NEWS

~May~

Mingo Swamp Flora and Fauna Photography Exhibit



Mingo Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is located near Puxico, Missouri. The Mingo Swamp Friends and staff hold an amateur and professional flora and fauna photography

contest each year. The photos of plants or animals are either taken at the refuge or are indigenous to the area. The contest's purpose is to promote the beauty, value, and uniqueness of the swamp. Come view the 2009 contest winners.

If interested in visiting and/or entering the 2010 contest, visit the website: www.mingoswampfriends.org/PhotoContest2010.pdf

~June~

Junior Duck Stamp

We are proud to display the winning artwork from Missouri's Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Visit the nature center anytime during June to view the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention entries from this contest.

NATURE CENTER HOURS

BUILDING HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday Open 8:00AM to 5:00PM
Thursdays until 8:00PM

Sunday and Monday: Building Closed

TRAIL HOURS

Open Daily 6:00AM to 9:00PM

For the little ones



Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Babes In The Woods Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.

Little Acorns Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.

Little Acorns PLUS If you have a child that fits into our Babes In The Woods program **AND** one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you! This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver. **When you make your reservation, please provide the ages of your children.**

May

Call 573/526-5544 on or after May 1st to make your reservation.

Peep, Peep, Peepers

It's a zoo in the goo of our nature center ponds! We'll search for those little green monsters (frogs) and look at their fascinating lifecycle. It's a "Hoppy" time! Reservations required.

Babes In The Woods

Thursday, May 6 – 1:00PM
Tuesday, May 25 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

Tuesday, May 11 – 1:00PM
Friday, May 21 – 11:00AM

Little Acorns PLUS

Saturday, May 8 – 10:00AM
Thursday, May 13 – 1:00PM

June

Call 573/526-5544 on or after June 1st to make your reservation.

Turtle Tales

Turtles have been around as long as dinosaurs and maybe longer! Join us for stories, a walk, and close encounters with a few of Missouri's oldest reptiles. Reservations required.

Babes In The Woods

Wednesday, June 9 – 10:00AM
Friday, June 25 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

Saturday, June 12 – 10:00AM
Friday, June 18 – 1:00PM

Little Acorns PLUS

Thursday, June 10 – 1:00PM
Wednesday, June 23 – 10:00AM



May Events

To make a reservation, call after **8:00 AM** on **May 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

1 Saturday 8:00AM-2:00PM

Wilderness Walk

Ages: 18 years and older

The goal of this program is to leisurely explore, identify, and thoroughly enjoy nature's beautiful surroundings. Meet at the nature center and car pool to the location. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and the interpretive program. The third of our four seasonal walks will take place at **Three Creeks Conservation Area** in Boone County 3-4 miles (*****).

We will focus on wildflower, lichen, and moss identification and discuss local geology. Bring your lunch, water, and hiking boots or comfortable shoes and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required. (Note: **EARLY RESERVATION**. Make your reservation as soon as you receive your newsletter.)

8 Saturday 8:00AM-5:00PM

The Runge Hiking Club

Ages: 18 years and older

Learn about our wondrous state! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

The landscape at **Ha Ha Tonka State Park** near Camdenton is an intriguing blend of karst features, forested hills, and open woodlands. We'll hike the **Turkey Pen Hollow Trail** (5 miles, ***), and experience one of the finest savanna and glade landscapes in the state. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

15 Saturday 10:00AM

Story Tree

Ages: All

The slow moving turtle,

The fast moving rabbit,

Deer quietly moving through the forest.

Come listen to our stories

Under the tree.

This is an informal story time for families with young children. No reservations required.

15 Saturday

Handcrafted Paper Naturally

Time: 10:00-11:30AM

Ages: 18 years and older
or

Time: 12:30-2:00PM

Ages: Children 7 years and older with an adult

We will blend newspapers, magazines, even unwanted junk mail with some actual pieces of nature—seeds, leaves, petals, and more - to create not just paper, but works of art! Discover how nature and recycling go hand-in-hand. Learn different techniques to try at home. Please bring a metal sheet cake pan, several magazines or catalogs and a bath size towel. Reservations required.

19 Wednesday 8:00AM-5:30PM

Midweek Trekkers

Ages: 18 years and older

Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

With over 17,000 acres, **Lake Ozark State Park** is Missouri's largest state park. We'll hike the north loop of the **Trail of Four Winds** (approximately 8-10 miles, *****), which wanders through oak-hickory forests, an old quarry, and a glimpse of Grand Glaize Marsh. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

Trail rating system

*Easiest trail (flat terrain with no obstructions)

**Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)

***Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots

****Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots

*****Most difficult (significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks)

20 Thursday 10:30AM-Noon
or 6:00-7:30PM

Nature's Needlers

Ages: 18 years and older

In the fifth of the "What's In Our Backyard" series, we focus on snakes, a very common but seldom seen backyard resident. Join us as we learn more about this often misunderstood, but beneficial, animal and create a related patchwork block. Reservations required.

22 Saturday 10:30AM-Noon

Worm Bin Basics

Ages: All

Learn to make your own worm bin. Feed your garbage to the worms, then put the resulting compost in your garden. Finally, use the little red wigglers for fish bait. Reservations required.

29 Saturday 10:00AM-2:00PM

Exploration Station: Wild about Wildflowers

Ages: All

Explore the world of flowers through crafts, activities, and a guided walk on our trails to see what is blooming. Guided walk begins at 1:00PM. No reservations required.



Common Snapping Turtle

This feisty companion is usually seen crossing the roads trying to find a mate and a place to lay eggs. It's best to leave this traveling turtle alone when found along a roadway. Its attitude BITES!

June Events

To make a reservation, call after **8:00AM** on **June 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

8 Tuesday 6:30-8:00PM

Beginning Map and Compass

Ages: All

What is a topo map? How do you navigate with a compass? Learn the basics of using a map and compass during this workshop. Bring your compass or use one of ours, and be prepared to go outside. Reservations required.

12 Saturday 8:00AM-5:00PM

The Runge Hiking Club

Ages: 18 years and older

This month we will travel to **Three Creeks Conservation Area** and hike 3 miles (*****) and then on to **Hart Creek Conservation Area** and hike 4 miles (*****). Both conservation areas are located in Boone County. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

17 Thursday 10:30AM-Noon
or 6:00-7:30PM

Nature's Needlers

Ages: 18 years and older

In the sixth of the "What's In Our Backyard" series, we discover more about predator/prey relationships with an animal not usually thought of as a predator – the American robin. When we think of robins, we usually think of it in search of its favorite food – earthworms – which makes it a predator! Join us this month to learn more about the robin and create a patchwork block to add to the series. Reservations required.

17 Thursday 6:30-7:30PM

Tree Stories

Ages: Adults

Come join the fun as we learn the secrets of Missouri's trees through their stories and a guided walk. No reservations required.

19 Saturday 10:00AM-2:00PM

Exploration Station: Missouri Turtles

Ages: All

Explore the world of Missouri turtles through live animals, crafts, games, and a guided walk to one of our ponds. Guided walk at 1:00PM. No reservations required.

19 Saturday 2:00PM

Story Tree

Ages: All

*The slow moving turtle,
The fast moving rabbit,
Deer quietly moving through the forest.
Come listen to our stories
Under the tree.*

This is an informal story time for families with young children. No reservations required.

23 Wednesday 8:00AM-5:00PM

Midweek Trekkers

Ages: 18 years and older

This month we will be traveling to **Daniel Boone Conservation Area** located in western Warren County. We plan to hike 5 miles (****) through the area which leads through deep valleys, glades, and rugged, wooded hills. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

30 Wednesday 10:00-11:30AM

A Log's Life

Ages: 7-12 years of age (accompanied by an adult)

"Deep in a forest, a great oak tree stands..." We will get down and dirty exploring Runge's "century" white oak trees from acorn to decaying log. Reservations required.

Nature Shop News

May/June featured item



This book features 60-plus pages of 111 wildflowers, grasses, ferns, vines, shrubs, and trees for every imaginable landscape use, with notes on growing needs of each.

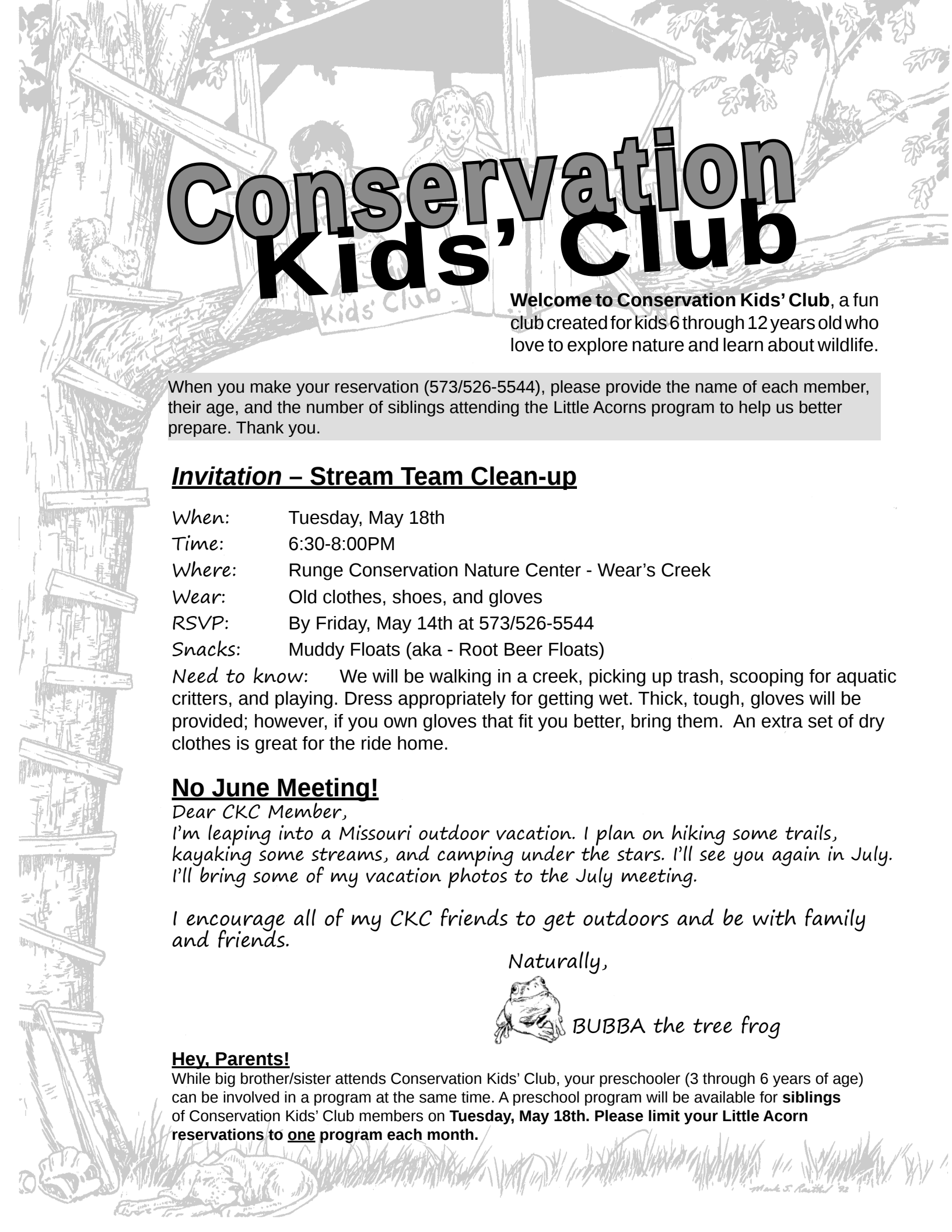
Discounted Price: **\$4.80**
Heritage card discount does not apply.



Red-eared slider

One of several species of aquatic turtles in Missouri, this fast swimmer, yet slow land traveler, is easy to recognize with its sleek, flattened shell and red streaks along its cheeks.

The nature center is now open on Thursday evenings until 8:00PM. Come explore the nature center and walk a trail or two. **Get Outdoors!**



Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 12 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

When you make your reservation (573/526-5544), please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

Invitation – Stream Team Clean-up

When: Tuesday, May 18th

Time: 6:30-8:00PM

Where: Runge Conservation Nature Center - Wear's Creek

Wear: Old clothes, shoes, and gloves

RSVP: By Friday, May 14th at 573/526-5544

Snacks: Muddy Floats (aka - Root Beer Floats)

Need to know: We will be walking in a creek, picking up trash, scooping for aquatic critters, and playing. Dress appropriately for getting wet. Thick, tough, gloves will be provided; however, if you own gloves that fit you better, bring them. An extra set of dry clothes is great for the ride home.

No June Meeting!

Dear CKC Member,

I'm leaping into a Missouri outdoor vacation. I plan on hiking some trails, kayaking some streams, and camping under the stars. I'll see you again in July. I'll bring some of my vacation photos to the July meeting.

I encourage all of my CKC friends to get outdoors and be with family and friends.

Naturally,



BUBBA the tree frog

Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for **siblings** of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, May 18th**. Please limit your Little Acorn reservations to **one** program each month.

CAMP F.I.R.E.

Fun In Resource Exploration

Ready to get FIRED up about being outdoors this summer? This camp is the perfect opportunity to explore nature by learning and participating in a variety of outdoor adventures. Camp F.I.R.E. is a day camp focused on helping you to learn how to have fun in our natural world. This year's camp will focus on *Missouri's Natural Communities*. Each day we will focus on a specific community such as forests, prairies, glades, and caves. We will learn what lives there, what grows there, and how to explore there. We will venture afield at Runge and to nearby areas to explore these natural wonders. On Saturday morning, we will invite your favorite big people (parents/caregivers) to Runge so you can share with them some of your new findings. Hope to see you at camp!

Down and Dirty in the Wilds of Missouri!

Date: June 1–5, 2010

Time: Tuesday–Friday 9:00AM–3:00PM **and** Saturday 9:00–11:00AM

Who: Camp F.I.R.E. is open to youth 9 through 12 years of age.

How: A completed permission form is your registration for the camp. Registrations will be accepted through **May 11th**. Use the form below, call us at 573/526-5544 and we will mail one to you, or visit our web page at <http://mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/runge/>.

Limits: Camp F.I.R.E. is limited to 30 youth. Due to the popularity of this camp, a lottery drawing will be held to determine participants. Successful campers will be notified by **May 14th**.

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Permission Application

I give (name) _____ (age) _____, (name) _____ (age) _____ permission to participate in **CAMP F.I.R.E.** sponsored by Runge Conservation Nature Center, June 1st–4th 9:00AM–3:00PM and June 5th 9:00–11:00AM. A complete schedule of events will be mailed to you prior to the beginning of camp.

Please list any special considerations including allergies or medications for your child(ren) that our staff need to know about. _____

I understand that in case of an emergency a nature center staff member will contact (name) _____, who can be reached at (phone #) _____.

Parent/Caregiver Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Note: Full participation by the camper is expected and parent/caregiver participation on Saturday is required.

Return completed application to: Runge Conservation Nature Center, CAMP F.I.R.E., P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102 no later than May 11th.

Habitat Happenings



Habitat Happenings

Runge Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Jefferson City Missouri
Permit No. 274

National Trails Day June 5



Free Fishing Days June 12 and 13



Get Outside